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DYNAMIC OF DISSOLVED ORGANIC MATTER AND TRACE ELEMENTS IN A STEADY STATE LAKE BOTTOM LAYER: MOLECULAR SIZE FRACTIONATION

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Dissolved organic matter (DOM) in aquatic systems interacts with most processes including redox reactions, trace elements complexation, sorption and sedimentation. The complex nature of DOM in natural waters suggests that all the fractions constituting it do not contribute in the same way to its reactivity. The total stock of DOM can be split by various means like the difference in size of the molecules or the difference in affinity for adsorbent phases. The deep and stable layers of meromictic lakes are of a particular interest for the study of the mechanisms controlling the behaviour of chemical elements in natural systems. Quasi stationary conditions unroll and stratify the processes through a certain thickness of the water column. In the deep layer of the lake Pavin (Massif-Central, France), solutes dispersing from the water-sediment interface (92 meter depth) cross a succession of levels characterized by different physicochemical and microbiological conditions (redox conditions, interactions with neoformed or settling particles, bacterial metabolic types) before to reach the oxic layer around 60 meter depth (Viollier *et al.*, 1995, 1997, Lehours *et al.*, 2003). In the layer 70-90 m (monimolimnion), trace elements can be schematically divided into two groups; one disperses upwards with mostly no interaction with the medium (Li, Cs), while the other undergoes a strong recycling sedimentation (Ba, U, Mo, V, Sb, La) (Viollier *et al.*, 1995; 1997). It was shown that many elements undergoing this recycling were associated (at 85 m depth) to organic fractions higher than 1 KD, hydrophobic enough to be adsorbed onto XAD-8 and XAD-4 resins (Albéric *et al.*, 2000). The dissolved organic carbon profiles (Fig. 1) recently obtained by in-situ pumping and on-line tangential ultrafiltration of the anoxic water of the monimolimnion, demonstrate the contrasted dynamics of the different DOM fractions according to their size. Less than 1 KD DOM presents a dispersion profile similar to those of the first group trace elements ("no reactive") while the fractions ranging between 1 to 10 KD and 10 KD to 0.45 μm conversely show profiles which testify to their reactivity in the deep layer of the lake. The ultrafiltration profiles carried out there have confirmed the essential role of the colloidal fractions on the recycling of certain elements like Mo and V (Thiam *et al.*,

2007). Microscopic observations (SEM, cryo-SEM) of the colloidal fractions, suggests the interaction of iron phosphate in the processes of coagulation and scavenging of certain forms of DOM in the deep layer.

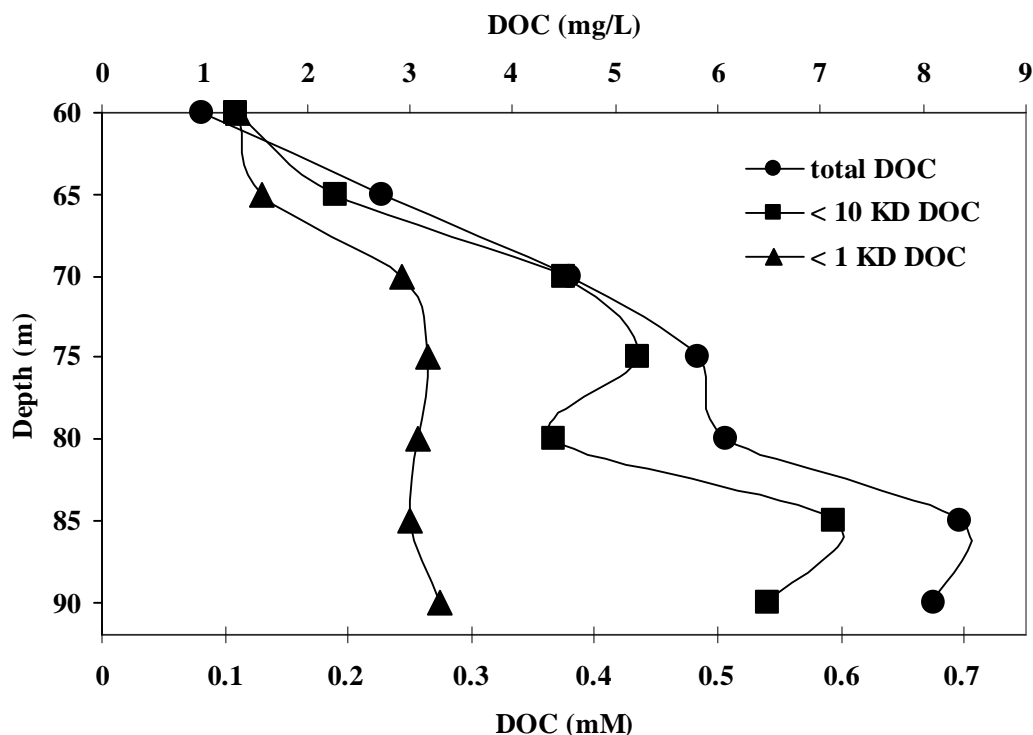


Figure 1. Depth profiles of dissolved organic carbon fractions in the monimolimnion of Lake Pavin.

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